



# Australian Bureau of Statistics

## 6250.0 - Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Migrants, Australia, Nov 2004

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### Summary

### Main Features

#### ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

This publication presents information about the labour force status and other characteristics of 'migrants'. For the purposes of this publication, migrants are defined as people who were born overseas, arrived in Australia after 1984, were aged 15 years and over on arrival, and have permanent Australian resident status. Information is also provided for people who were temporary residents who planned to stay in Australia for 12 months or more. See the Glossary for more information.

The statistics in this publication were compiled from data collected in the Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Migrants survey that was conducted throughout Australia in November 2004 as a supplement to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS).

#### NOTES ABOUT THE ESTIMATES

A number of new data items relating to the residency status (including visa types) of the respondent have been included in this publication. These are 'Residency status as at November 2004', 'Residency status on most recent arrival to live in Australia', 'Type of visa as at November 2004', 'Type of visa on most recent arrival to live in Australia', 'Type of permanent visa before becoming an Australian citizen', 'Whether an Australian citizen as at November 2004' and 'Whether main applicant or whether arrived with main applicant'. The data items 'Whether had family or friends in Australia just before migration', 'All family in Australia just before migration' and 'Migration category' used in the 1999 publication have been dropped as the information was not collected in the 2004 survey.

#### ROUNDING

As estimates have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

#### INQUIRIES

For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070 or Labour Market Section on Canberra (02) 6252 7206.

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

### OVERVIEW

In November 2004, the Australian civilian population aged 15 years and over comprised 15,745,200 people (excluding institutionalised people and boarding school pupils; and people in very remote parts of Australia). Of these people 4,342,600 (28%) were born overseas.

There were 1,559,700 people who were born overseas, arrived in Australia after 1984, and were aged 15 years and over on arrival. This represents 10% of the civilian population aged 15 years and over. Of these, 1,362,600 (87%) were migrants, that is, people who were born overseas, who arrived in Australia after 1984, were aged 15 years and over on arrival and had obtained permanent Australian resident status prior to or after their arrival. The remainder were either temporary residents who planned to stay in Australia for 12 months or more (11%) or those whose status was not able to be determined (2%).

Of those overseas born people who arrived in Australia after 1984 and were aged 15 years and over on arrival, 61% were the main applicant on the application form.

### MIGRANTS

In November 2004, there were 1,362,600 migrants. The majority (68%) were born in other than main English speaking countries, and most (87%) were aged 15-44 years on arrival in Australia.

There were 337,300 migrants who had a temporary visa on their most recent arrival to live in Australia, and had obtained a permanent visa by November 2004. Of those who had obtained a permanent visa, 45% were in the family stream.

### Employment

In November 2004, 66% of migrants were employed, compared to 64% of those born in Australia. Of those migrants who were employed, 73% had a job just before arrival, and approximately 56% of these had changed their major occupation grouping since arriving in Australia. Male migrants were more likely to be employed (80%) than female migrants (55%).

### Unemployment

In November 2004, the unemployment rate for migrants was 5.6% and 4.9% for those born in Australia. The rate for male and female migrants was 5.1% and 6.2% respectively. This compares with 4.9% for males and females born in Australia.

## **Labour force participation**

The labour force participation rates for male and female migrants were 83.9% and 58.6%. For males and females born in Australia, participation rates were 74.7% and 60.2% respectively.

Migrants who were born in main English-speaking countries had a higher participation rate (78.9%) than those born in other than main English-speaking countries (66.2%).

## **Qualifications**

Just over half (51%) of migrants arrived in Australia without a non-school qualification. Of the 661,100 who arrived with a non-school qualification, 57% arrived with a Bachelor Degree or higher and 54% had their overseas qualifications recognised in Australia.

# **About this Release**

## **ABOUT THIS RELEASE**

Labour force participation of migrants cross-tabulated by migration category, country of birth; educational attainment on arrival and whether occupation before migration was the same as current occupation. Estimates can be cross-classified by labour force demographics such as state, sex, age and marital status.

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# **Explanatory Notes**

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### **INTRODUCTION**

**1** The statistics in this publication were compiled from data collected in the Labour Force and Other Characteristics of Migrants survey, that was conducted throughout Australia in November 2004 as a supplement to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS). Respondents to the LFS who were in the scope of the supplementary survey were asked further questions.

**2** The publication **Labour Force, Australia** (cat. no. 6202.0) contains information about survey design, sample redesign, scope, coverage and population benchmarks relevant to

the monthly LFS, which also apply to supplementary surveys. It also contains definitions of demographic and labour force characteristics, and information about telephone interviewing which are relevant to both the monthly LFS and supplementary surveys.

**3** From April 2001, the LFS has been conducted using a redesigned questionnaire containing additional questions and some minor definitional changes. These changes also affect the supplementary surveys. For further details, see **Information Paper: Implementing the Redesigned Labour Force Survey Questionnaire** (cat. no. 6295.0) and **Information Paper: Questionnaires Used in the Labour Force Survey** (cat. no. 6232.0).

## **CAI IMPLEMENTATION**

**4** Information for this survey was collected using computer assisted interviewing (CAI), whereby responses are recorded directly onto an electronic questionnaire on a notebook computer.

**5** The change of interviewing procedure since the 1999 Survey, which was conducted using the 'pen and paper' method, is not expected to have affected the estimates in any meaningful way.

## **CONCEPTS, SOURCES AND METHODS**

**6** The conceptual framework used in Australia's LFS aligns closely with the standards and guidelines set out in Resolutions of the International Conference of Labour Statisticians. Descriptions of the underlying concepts and structure of Australia's labour force statistics, and the sources and methods used in compiling these estimates, are presented in **Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods** (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001) which is available on the ABS web site <<https://www.abs.gov.au>> (Methods, Classifications, Concepts & Standards).

## **SCOPE**

**7** The scope of the LFS was restricted to people aged 15 years and over and excluded the following people:

- members of the permanent defence forces
- certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments, customarily excluded from the census and estimated populations
- overseas residents in Australia
- members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependants).

**8** Students at boarding schools, patients in hospitals, residents of homes (e.g. retirement homes, homes for people with disabilities), and inmates of prisons are excluded from all supplementary surveys.

**9** This supplementary survey was conducted in both urban and rural areas in all states and territories, but excluded approximately 120,000 people living in very remote parts of Australia who would otherwise have been within the scope of the survey. The exclusion of these people will have only a minor impact on any aggregate estimates that are produced for individual states and territories, except the Northern Territory where such people account for over 20% of the population.

**10** This survey was restricted to people who were born overseas, arrived in Australia after 1984, were aged 15 years and over on arrival, and had either obtained permanent Australian resident status prior to or after arrival, or were temporary residents who planned to stay in Australia for 12 months or more.

## COVERAGE

**11** The estimates in this publication relate to people covered by the survey in November 2004. In the LFS, coverage rules are applied which aim to ensure that each person is associated with only one dwelling, and hence has only one chance of selection in the survey. See **Labour Force, Australia** (cat. no. 6202.0) for more details.

## SAMPLE SIZE

**12** Supplementary surveys are not always conducted on the full LFS sample. Since August 1994 the sample for supplementary surveys has been restricted to no more than seven-eighths of the LFS sample.

**13** The initial sample for the November 2004 LFS consisted of 40,756 private dwelling households and special dwelling units. Of the 33,338 private dwelling households and special dwelling units that remained in the survey after sample loss (e.g. households selected in the survey which had no residents in scope for the LFS, vacant or derelict dwellings and dwellings under construction), approximately 31,312 or 93.9% were fully responding to the Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Migrants survey. The number of completed interviews obtained from these private dwellings and special dwelling units (after taking into account scope, coverage and subsampling exclusions) was 4,849.

## RELIABILITY OF THE ESTIMATES

**14** Estimates in this publication are subject to sampling and non-sampling errors:

- Sampling error is the difference between the published estimate and the value that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey. For more information see the Technical Note.
- Non-sampling errors are inaccuracies that occur because of imperfections in reporting by respondents and interviewers, and errors made in coding and processing data. These inaccuracies may occur in any enumeration, whether it be a full count or a sample. Every effort is made to reduce the non-sampling error to a minimum by careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and supervision of interviewers and

efficient processing procedures.

## **SEASONAL FACTORS**

**15** The estimates are based on information collected in the survey month and, due to seasonal factors, may not be representative of other months of the year.

## **CLASSIFICATIONS USED**

**16** Country of birth data are classified according to the **Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC), 1998** (cat. no. 1269.0).

**17** Occupation data are classified according to the **ASCO - Australian Standard of Classification of Occupations, Second Edition, 1997** (cat. no. 1220.0).

**18** Industry data are classified according to the **Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC), 1993** (cat. no. 1292.0).

**19** Educational attainment data are classified according to the **Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED)** (cat. no. 1272.0). See Appendix 1 for more information.

## **NOTES ON ESTIMATES**

**20** There were 226,500 people who arrived after 1984, were aged 15 years and over on arrival, and were either born in New Zealand or were citizens of New Zealand before migrating to Australia to live. Of those New Zealanders who became citizens, 43,700 were born in other than main English-speaking countries.

## **COMPARABILITY OF TIME SERIES**

**21** Revisions are made to population benchmarks for the LFS after each five-yearly Census of Population and Housing. The last such revision was made in February 2004 to take account of the results of the 2001 Census of Population and Housing. Estimates from supplementary surveys conducted from and including February 2004 are therefore based on the revised population benchmarks.

**22** Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Migrants Surveys conducted up to and including November 1996 were restricted to migrants who arrived in Australia after 1970, were aged 18 years or more on arrival, and had obtained permanent Australian resident status. For November 1999, the survey was restricted to migrants who arrived in Australia after 1980, were aged 18 years or more on arrival, and had obtained permanent Australian resident status. For November 2004, the survey included migrants who arrived in Australia

after 1984 and people who were temporary residents of Australia for 12 months or more.

**23** It is impracticable to obtain information relating to labour force status of people before migration according to the strict definitions used in the monthly LFS. It is for this reason that 'Had a job' and 'Did not have a job' are used to describe pre-migration labour force status, while 'Employed', 'Unemployed' and 'Not in the labour force' are used to describe labour force status at November 2004.

## **COMPARABILITY WITH MONTHLY LFS STATISTICS**

**24** Due to differences in the scope and sample size of this supplementary survey and that of the monthly LFS, the estimation procedure may lead to some small variations between labour force estimates from this survey and those from the LFS.

## **PREVIOUS SURVEYS**

**25** Results of previous surveys have been published in:

- **Characteristics of Migrants Aged 18 Years and Over at the Time of Arrival and Who Arrived after 1960, Australia, March 1984** (cat. no. 6250.0)
- **Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Migrants, Australia, March 1987** (cat. no. 6250.0)
- **Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Migrants, Australia, September 1990** (cat. no. 6250.0)
- **Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Migrants, Australia, September 1993** (cat. no. 6250.0)
- **Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Migrants, Australia, November 1996** (cat. no. 6250.0)
- **Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Migrants, Australia, November 1999** (cat. no. 6250.0).

## **NEXT SURVEY**

**26** The ABS plans to conduct this survey again in November 2007.

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

**27** ABS publications draw extensively on information provided freely by individuals, businesses, governments and other organisations. Their continued cooperation is very much appreciated: without it, the wide range of statistics published by the ABS would not be available. Information received by the ABS is treated in strict confidence as required by the **Census and Statistics Act 1905**.

## **RELATED PUBLICATIONS**

**28** ABS publications which may be of interest include:

- **Australian Labour Market Statistics**, cat. no. 6105.0
- **Job Search Experience, Australia**, cat. no. 6222.0
- **Labour Force, Australia**, cat. no. 6202.0
- **Labour Force Experience, Australia** cat. no. 6206.0.

**29** Current publications and other products released by the ABS are listed in the **Catalogue of Publications and Products** (cat. no. 1101.0). The Catalogue is available from any ABS office or the ABS web site, <<https://www.abs.gov.au>>. The ABS also issues a daily Release Advice on the web site which details products to be released in the week ahead.

## Glossary

### **Business skills program**

Comprises successful business people with established skills in business who have a genuine commitment to owning and managing a business in Australia.

### **Country of last residence**

The country in which the person last lived before coming to Australia to live. Classified according to the **Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC), 1998** (cat. no. 1269.0).

### **Employed**

People aged 15 years and over who, during the reference week:

- worked for one hour or more for pay, profit, commission or payment in kind, in a job or business, or on a farm (comprising employees, employers and own account workers); or
- worked for one hour or more without pay in a family business or farm (i.e. contributing family workers); or
- were employees who had a job but were not at work and were:
  - away from work for less than four weeks up to the end of the reference week; or
  - away from work for more than four weeks up to the end of the reference week and received pay for some or all of the four week period to the end of the reference week; or
  - away from work as a standard work or shift arrangement; or
  - on strike or locked out; or
  - on workers' compensation and expected to be returning to their job; or
- were employers, own account workers who had a job, business or farm, but were not at work.

## **Family stream**

Allows for the migration of immediate family members (such as spouses or fiancés and dependent children) of Australian citizens, permanent residents or eligible New Zealand citizens. Places are also available for other family members including parents, orphan relatives, aged dependent relatives, special need relatives and last remaining relatives.

## **Humanitarian**

Comprises 'offshore resettlement' for people overseas, and 'onshore protection' for those people already in Australia who arrived on temporary visas or in an unauthorised manner, and who have been given Australia's protection.

## **Industry**

Classified according to the **Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC), 1993** (cat. no. 1292.0). In this publication industry relates to the main job and is shown at the ANZSIC Division level.

## **Labour force**

For any group, people who were employed or unemployed, as defined.

## **Level of highest educational attainment**

Level of highest educational attainment identifies the highest achievement a person has attained in any area of study. It is not a measurement of the relative importance of different fields of study but a ranking of qualifications and other educational attainments regardless of the particular area of study or the type of institution in which the study was undertaken. See Appendix 1 for how highest level is derived.

## **Main applicant**

The person on whose application the grant of a visa is decided for that person and his/her dependants.

## **Main English-speaking countries**

Comprises the United Kingdom, Ireland, New Zealand, Canada, United States of America and South Africa.

## **Migrant**

A person who was born overseas, who arrived in Australia after 1984, was aged 15 years and over on arrival, and had obtained permanent Australian resident status prior to or after their arrival.

### **Not in the labour force**

People who were not in the categories employed or unemployed as defined.

### **Occupation**

Classified according to the **ASCO - Australian Standard Classification of Occupations, Second Edition** (cat. no. 1220.0). In this publication, occupation relates to the current main job and the job just before arrival and is shown at the Major Group level.

### **Other Income**

Comprises profit or loss from own unincorporated business or share in partnership, profit or loss from rental property, dividends or interest, overseas pension or benefit, child support or maintenance, superannuation or annuity, workers' compensation, and other income.

### **Other overseas born**

Comprises people who arrived in Australia before 1985; people who arrived after 1984 and were aged less than 15 years on arrival; and people who arrived after 1984 and were aged 15 years and over on arrival and were either temporary residents who had planned to stay in Australia for 12 months or more, or those whose status was not able to be determined.

### **Participation rate**

For any group, the labour force expressed as a percentage of the civilian population aged 15 years and over in the same group.

### **Permanent resident**

For the purposes of this publication a permanent resident is a migrant as defined.

### **Permanent visa**

A permanent visa is the permission or authority granted by Australia for foreign nationals to live in Australia permanently.

## **Proficiency in spoken English**

The response given by a respondent to the question 'Do you consider you speak English very well, well or not well?'.

## **Refugee**

A person who is subject to persecution in their home country and who is in need of resettlement. The majority of applicants who are considered under this category are identified by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and referred by UNHCR to Australia.

## **Reference week**

The week preceding the week in which the interview was conducted.

## **Residency status on most recent arrival to live in Australia**

Refers to those people who either came to Australia as migrants or temporary residents as defined. It should be noted that some of the latter group may have since become permanent residents.

## **Skilled Australian sponsored visa**

Migrants who are selected on the basis of their skills, age, English-language ability and family relationship. They must be sponsored by a relative already living in Australia.

## **Sponsored by employer**

Employers may nominate (or 'sponsor') overseas born people, on a permanent basis, to fill vacancies which the employers:

- have been unable to fill from the Australian labour market; or
- have been unable to fill through their own training programs; or
- are responding to identified or emerging labour market (or skill) shortages.

## **Temporary resident**

For the purposes of this publication a temporary resident is a person who was born overseas, who arrived in Australia after 1984, who was aged 15 years and over on arrival, who planned to stay in Australia for 12 months or more and had not obtained permanent Australian resident status.

## **Temporary visa**

The permission or authority granted by Australia for foreign nationals to travel to Australia and stay up to a specified period of time. Temporary entrants include:

- tourists; or
- students; or
- business people for short stays; or
- people with specialist skills, such as managers, academics and medical practitioners; or
- people who make a social or cultural contribution to the community, such as entertainers, media and film staff, sports people, religious workers, visiting academics and public lecturers; or
- people who contribute to the development of international relations, such as diplomatic personnel, participants in exchange programs and working holiday makers.

## **Unemployed**

People aged 15 years and over who were not employed during the reference week, and:

- had actively looked for full-time or part-time work at any time in the four weeks up to the end of reference week and were available for work in the reference week; or
- were waiting to start a new job within four weeks from the end of the reference week and could have started in the reference week if the job had been available then.

## **Unemployment rate**

For any group, the number of unemployed people expressed as a percentage of the civilian population in the same group.

## **Abbreviations**

'000	thousand
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ABSCQ	Australian Bureau of Statistics Classification of Qualifications
ANZSIC	Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification
ASCED	Australian Standard Classification of Education
ASCO	Australian Standard Classification of Occupations
CAI	computer assisted interviewing
LFS	Labour Force Survey
n.f.d.	not further defined
RSE	relative standard error
SACC	Standard Australian Classification of Countries
SE	standard error

# Classification of Education (Appendix)

## APPENDIX 1 CLASSIFICATION OF EDUCATION

### CLASSIFICATION OF EDUCATION

In 2001, the **ABS Classification of Qualifications (ABSCQ)** (cat. no. 1262.0) was replaced by the **Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED)** (cat. no. 1272.0). The ASCED is a national standard classification which can be applied to all sectors of the Australian education system including schools, vocational education and training and higher education. ASCED replaces a number of classifications previously used in administrative and statistical systems, including the ABSCQ. The ASCED comprises two classifications: Level of Education and Field of Education.

Level of Highest Educational attainment can be derived from information on Highest Year of School completed and Level of Highest Non-school Qualification before and since arrival. The derivation process determines which of the 'non-school' or 'school' attainments will be regarded as the highest. Usually the higher ranking attainment will be self-evident, but in some cases some Secondary Education is regarded, for the purposes of obtaining a single measure, as higher than some Certificate level attainments.

The following decision table is used to determine which of the responses to questions on Highest Year of School Completed (coded to ASCED Broad Level 6) and Level of Highest Non-school Qualification before and since arrival (coded to ASCED Broad Level 5) will be regarded as the highest. It is emphasised that this table was designed for the purpose of obtaining a single value for the output variable Level of Highest Educational Attainment and is not intended to convey any other ordinality.

Decision Table: Level of Highest Educational Attainment							
ASCED LEVEL OF EDUCATION CODES	Certificate n.f.d. (500)	Certificate III or IV n.f.d. (510)	Certificate IV (511)	Certificate III (514)	Certificate I or II n.f.d. (520)	Certificate II (521)	Certificate I (524)
Secondary Education n.f.d. (600)	Certificate n.f.d.	Certificate III or IV n.f.d.	Certificate IV	Certificate III	Certificate I or II n.f.d.	Certificate II	Certificate I
Senior Secondary Education n.f.d. (610)	Senior Secondary n.f.d.	Certificate III or IV n.f.d.	Certificate IV	Certificate III	Senior Secondary n.f.d.	Senior Secondary n.f.d.	Senior Secondary n.f.d.
Year 12 (611)	Year 12	Certificate III or IV n.f.d.	Certificate IV	Certificate III	Year 12	Year 12	Year 12
Year 11 (613)	Year 11	Certificate III or IV n.f.d.	Certificate IV	Certificate III	Year 11	Year 11	Year 11
Junior Secondary Education n.f.d. (620)	Certificate n.f.d.	Certificate III or IV n.f.d.	Certificate IV	Certificate III	Certificate I or II n.f.d.	Certificate II	Certificate I
Year 10 (621)	Year 10	Certificate III or IV n.f.d.	Certificate IV	Certificate III	Year 10	Certificate II	Year 10
Year 9 (622)	Certificate n.f.d.	Certificate III or IV n.f.d.	Certificate IV	Certificate III	Certificate I or II n.f.d.	Certificate II	Certificate I
Year 8 (623)	Certificate n.f.d.	Certificate III or IV n.f.d.	Certificate IV	Certificate III	Certificate I or II n.f.d.	Certificate II	Certificate I
Year 7 (624)	Certificate n.f.d.	Certificate III or IV n.f.d.	Certificate IV	Certificate III	Certificate I or II n.f.d.	Certificate II	Certificate I

The decision table is also used to rank the information provided in a survey about the qualifications and attainments of a single individual. It does not represent any basis for comparison between differing qualifications. For example, a person whose Highest Year of School Completed was Year 12, and whose Level of Highest Non-school Qualification was a Certificate III, would have those responses crosschecked on the decision table and would as a result have their Level of Highest Educational Attainment output as Certificate III. However, if the same person answered 'Certificate' to the highest non-school qualification question, without offering any further detail, it would be crosschecked against Year 12 on the decision table as 'Certificate not further defined'. The output would then be 'Year 12'. The decision table, therefore, does not necessarily imply that one qualification is 'higher' than the other.

## **Populations and Data Items List (Appendix)**

### **APPENDIX 2 POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST**

#### **DATA AVAILABLE ON REQUEST**

The ABS has a range of data available on request from the Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Migrants survey. This section lists the data items and populations which relate to the survey. More detailed breakdowns of some data items may also be available on request.

The population(s) for a particular data item refers to the person in the survey to whom the data relates. Where alternative output categories are available for the same data item, these are shown and the data item name is followed by a bracketed numeral (e.g. Country of birth (1)).

For more information about ABS data available on request, contact Linda Fardell on Canberra (02) 6252 6562, or by facsimile on (02) 6252 7512, or by email to <[linda.fardell@abs.gov.au](mailto:linda.fardell@abs.gov.au)>.

#### **Population 1**

Civilian population aged 15 years and over.

#### **Population 2**

Migrants and temporary residents.

#### **Population 3**

Migrants.

## **Population 4**

Migrants with a non-school qualification on arrival.

## **Population 5**

Migrants who were born in other than main English-speaking countries.

Data items	Populations
1 State or territory of usual residence	All
New South Wales	
Victoria	
Queensland	
South Australia	
Western Australia	
Tasmania	
Northern Territory	
Australian Capital Territory	
2 Area of usual residence	All
State capital city	
Balance of state/territory	
3 Region of usual residence	All
Standard labour force dissemination regions	
4 Sex	All
Males	
Females	
5 Marital status	All
Married	
Not married	
6 Relationship in household	All
Family member	
Husband, wife or partner	
With dependants	
Without dependants	
Lone parent	
With dependants	
Without dependants	
Dependent student	
Non-dependent child	
Other family person	
Non-family member	
Lone person	
Not living alone	
Relationship not determined	
7A Country of birth (1)	All
Born in Australia	
Born overseas	
Born in main English-speaking countries	
Born in other than main English-speaking countries	
7B Country of birth (2)	All
Born in Australia	
Born overseas	
Oceania and Antarctica	
North-West Europe	
Southern and Eastern Europe	
North Africa and the Middle East	
South-East Asia	
North-East Asia	
Southern and Central Asia	
Americas	

	Sub-Saharan Africa	
7C Year of arrival		All
1985-1989		
1990-1994		
1995-1999		
2000		
2001		
2002		
2003		
2004 to survey date		
Note: Year of arrival collected in single years.		
8A Region of country of last residence		2-5
Oceania and Antarctica		
North-West Europe		
Southern and Eastern Europe		
North Africa and the Middle East		
South-East Asia		
North-East Asia		
Southern and Central Asia		
Americas		
Sub-Saharan Africa		
8B Country of last residence		2-5
Main English-speaking countries		
Other than main English-speaking countries		
9 Age group (years)		All
15-19		
20-24		
25-34		
35-44		
45-54		
55-59		
60-64		
65 and over		
Note: Age collected in single years.		
10 Labour force status		All
Employed		
Unemployed		
Not in the labour force		
11 Status in employment		All
Employee		
Employer		
Own account worker		
Contributing family worker		
12 Full time or part time status of employment		All
Full time		
Part time		
13 Industry		All
Agriculture, forestry and fishing		
Mining		
Manufacturing		
Electricity, gas and water supply		
Construction		
Wholesale trade		
Retail trade		
Accommodation, cafes and restaurants		
Transport and storage		
Communication services		
Finance and insurance		
Property and business services		
Government administration and defence		
Education		
Health and community services		
Cultural and recreational services		
Personal and other services		
14 Occupation		All

	Managers and administrators	
	Professionals	
	Associate professionals	
	Tradespersons and related workers	
	Advanced clerical and service workers	
	Intermediate clerical, sales and service workers	
	Intermediate production and transport workers	
	Elementary clerical, sales and service workers	
	Labourers and related workers	
15	Migration summary	All
	Born in Australia	
	Born overseas	
	Arrived before 1985	
	Arrived after 1984	
	Aged less than 15 years on arrival	
	Aged 15 years and over on arrival	
	Temporary resident	
	Migrant	
	Status not determined	
16	Type of visa as at November 2004	2-5
	New Zealand citizen	
	Temporary visa	
	Business	
	Student	
	Other	
	Permanent visa	
	Skilled	
	Business skills program	
	General skilled	
	Sponsored by employer	
	Australian sponsored	
	Other	
	Family stream	
	Humanitarian	
	Refugee	
	Other	
	Status not determined	
17	Type of visa on most recent arrival to live in Australia	2-5
	New Zealand citizen	
	Temporary visa	
	Business	
	Student	
	Other	
	Permanent visa	
	Skilled	
	Business skills program	
	General skilled	
	Sponsored by employer	
	Australian sponsored	
	Other	
	Family stream	
	Humanitarian	
	Refugee	
	Other	
	Status not determined	
18	Type of permanent visa before becoming an Australian citizen	2-5
	Permanent visa	
	Skilled	
	Business skills program	
	General skilled	
	Sponsored by employer	
	Australian sponsored	
	Other	
	Family stream	
	Humanitarian	
	Refugee	

	Other	
19	Whether an Australian citizen as at November 2004	2-5
	Australian citizen	
	Not an Australian citizen	
20	Residency status as at November 2004	2-5
	Temporary resident	
	Permanent resident	
	Status not determined	
21	Residency status on most recent arrival to live in Australia	2-5
	Temporary resident	
	Permanent resident	
	Status not determined	
22	Whether main applicant	2-5
	Main applicant	
	Came to Australia with main applicant	
	Did not come to Australia with main applicant	
23	Proficiency in spoken English	2-5
	Only English mainly spoken at home	
	Language other than English spoken at home	
	English spoken very well	
	English spoken well	
	English spoken not well	
	English not spoken	
24	Age group on arrival in Australia (years)	2-5
	15-19	
	20-24	
	25-34	
	35-44	
	45-54	
	55-59	
	60-64	
	65 and over	
	Note: Age collected in single years.	
25	Whether country of last residence is different to country of birth	2-5
	Country of last residence different to country of birth	
	Country of last residence same as country of birth	
26	Whether had a job just before arrival	2-5
	Had a job just before arrival	
	Did not have a job just before arrival	
27	Whether worked full time just before arrival	2-5
	Had a job just before arrival	
	Worked full time	
	Did not work full time	
	Did not have a job just before arrival	
28	Occupation just before arrival	2-5
	Managers and administrators	
	Professionals	
	Associate professionals	
	Tradespersons and related workers	
	Advanced clerical and service workers	
	Intermediate clerical, sales and service workers	
	Intermediate production and transport workers	
	Elementary clerical, sales and service workers	
	Labourers and related workers	
29	Whether occupation before arrival was same as occupation as at November 2004	2-5
	Had a job just before arrival	
	Same occupation major group	
	Changed occupation major group	
	Did not have a job just before arrival	
30	Highest year of school completed	2-5
	Year 12	
	Year 11	
	Year 10	
	Year 9	

	Year 8 or below	
	Never attended school	
	Still at school	
31	Level of highest educational attainment	2-5
	Postgraduate Degree	
	Graduate Diploma/Graduate Certificate	
	Bachelor Degree	
	Advanced Diploma/Diploma	
	Certificate III/IV	
	Certificate I/II	
	Certificate not further defined	
	Level not determined	
	Other education	
	Year 12	
	Year 11	
	Year 10 or below	
	Never attended school	
	Still at school	
32	Level of highest non-school qualification obtained before arrival	2-5
	With a non-school qualification	
	Postgraduate Degree	
	Graduate Diploma/Graduate Certificate	
	Bachelor Degree	
	Advanced Diploma/Diploma	
	Certificate III/IV	
	Certificate I/II	
	Certificate not further defined	
	Level not determined	
	Without a non-school qualification	
33	Level of highest non-school qualification obtained since arrival	2-5
	With a non-school qualification	
	Postgraduate Degree	
	Graduate Diploma/Graduate Certificate	
	Bachelor Degree	
	Advanced Diploma/Diploma	
	Certificate III/IV	
	Certificate I/II	
	Certificate not further defined	
	Level not determined	
	Without a non-school qualification	
34	Country in which qualification was obtained before arrival	2-5
	Oceania and Antarctica	
	North-West Europe	
	Southern and Eastern Europe	
	North Africa and the Middle East	
	South-East Asia	
	North-East Asia	
	Southern and Central Asia	
	Americas	
	Sub-Saharan Africa	
35	Whether qualifications obtained before arrival recognised in Australia	2-5
	Qualification obtained overseas and recognised in Australia by:	
	National Office of Overseas Skills Recognition (NOOSR)	
	Licensing/registration board	
	Union/professional association	
	Employer	
	Other	
	Qualification not recognised in Australia	
	Did not know if overseas qualification recognised in Australia	
	Qualification obtained in Australia prior to arrival	
36	Current main source of income	2-5
	Wages or salary (including from own incorporated business)	
	Government pension or allowance	
	Other income	

Profit or loss from own unincorporated business or share in partnership
Profit or loss from rental property
Dividends or interest
Overseas pension or benefit
Child support or maintenance
Superannuation or annuity
Workers' compensation
Other
Nil/spouse's income

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## Supplementary Surveys List (Appendix)

### APPENDIX 3 SUPPLEMENTARY SURVEYS LIST

#### SUPPLEMENTARY SURVEYS

The Monthly Population Survey program collects data on particular aspects of the labour force. The following is an historical list of supplementary surveys to the monthly labour force survey. Data from these surveys are available on request and can be obtained by contacting the ABS.

	cat. no.	Frequency	Latest issue
Career Experience, Australia	6254.0	Irregular	November 2002
Career Paths of Persons with Trade Qualifications, Australia	6243.0	Discontinued	Final issue 1993
Child Care, Australia	4402.0	Irregular	June 2002
Education and Work, Australia	6227.0	Annual	May 2004
Employee Earnings, Benefits, and Trade Union Membership, Australia	6310.0	Annual	August 2004
Forms of Employment, Australia	6359.0	Irregular	November 2004
Job Search Experience, Australia	6222.0	Annual	July 2004
Labour Force Experience, Australia	6206.0	Biennial	February 2003
Labour Force Status and Educational Attainment, Australia	6235.0	Discontinued	Final issue 1994
Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Families, Australia(a)	6224.0	Discontinued	Final issue 2000
Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Migrants, Australia	6250.0	Irregular	November 2004
Labour Mobility, Australia	6209.0	Biennial	February 2004
Locations of Work, Australia	6275.0	Irregular	June 2000
Multiple Jobholding, Australia(b)	6216.0	Irregular	August 1997
Participation in Education, Australia	6272.0	Discontinued	Final issue 1999
Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia	6220.0	Annual	September 2004
Persons Who had Re-entered the Labour Force, Australia	6264.0.40.001	Discontinued	Final issue 1995
Persons Who Have Left the Labour Force, Australia	6267.0.40.001	Discontinued	Final issue 1994
Retirement and Retirement Intentions, Australia	6238.0	Irregular	November 1997
Retrenchment and Redundancy, Australia	6266.0	Irregular	July 2001
Successful and Unsuccessful Job Search Experience, Australia	6245.0	Discontinued	Final issue 2000

Superannuation, Australia	6319.0	Discontinued	Final issue 1995
Underemployed Workers, Australia	6265.0	Annual	September 2004
Working Arrangements, Australia	6342.0	Irregular	November 2003
Work-Related Injuries, Australia	6324.0	Irregular	September 2000

(a) Latest data available June 2004, from the ABS web site cat. no. 6291.0.55.001 annual, or on request.

(b) Latest data available on request July 2001.

## Data Quality (Technical Note)

### TECHNICAL NOTE DATA QUALITY

#### INTRODUCTION

**1** Since the estimates in this publication are based on information obtained from occupants of a sample of dwellings, they are subject to sampling variability. That is, they may differ from those estimates that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey. One measure of the likely difference is given by the standard error (SE), which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample of dwellings was included. There are about two chances in three (67%) that a sample estimate will differ by less than one SE from the number that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included, and about 19 chances in 20 (95%) that the difference will be less than two SEs. Another measure of the likely difference is the relative standard error (RSE), which is obtained by expressing the SE as a percentage of the estimate.

**2** Due to space limitations, it is impractical to print the SE of each estimate in the publication. Instead, a table of SEs is provided to enable readers to determine the SE for an estimate from the size of that estimate (see table T1). The SE table is derived from a mathematical model, referred to as the 'SE model', which is created using data from a number of past Labour Force Surveys. It should be noted that the SE model only gives an approximate value for the SE for any particular estimate, since there is some minor variation between SEs for different estimates of the same size.

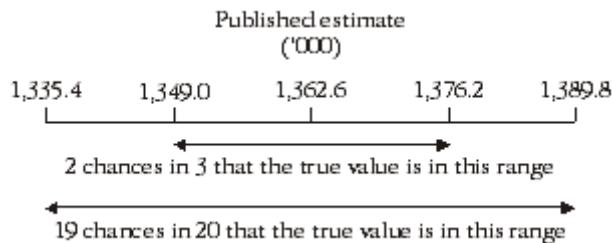
#### CALCULATION OF STANDARD ERRORS

**3** An example of the calculation and the use of SEs in relation to estimates of people is as follows. Table 3 shows that the estimated number of migrants was 1,362,600. Since this estimate is between 1,000,000 and 2,000,000, table T1 shows the SE for Australia will be between 12,150 and 16,050, and can be approximated by interpolation using the following general formula:

*SE of estimate*

$$\begin{aligned} &= \text{lower SE} + \left( \left( \frac{\text{size of estimate} - \text{lower estimate}}{\text{upper estimate} - \text{lower estimate}} \right) \times (\text{upper SE} - \text{lower SE}) \right) \\ &= 12,150 + \left( \left( \frac{1,362,600 - 1,000,000}{2,000,000 - 1,000,000} \right) \times (16,050 - 12,150) \right) \\ &= 13,600 \text{ (rounded to the nearest 100)} \end{aligned}$$

**4** Therefore, there are about two chances in three that the value that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey will fall in the range 1,349,000 to 1,376,200, and about 19 chances in 20 that the value will fall within the range 1,335,400 to 1,389,800. This example is illustrated in the diagram below.



**5** In general, the size of the SE increases as the size of the estimate increases. Conversely, the RSE decreases as the size of the estimate increases. Very small estimates are thus subject to such high RSEs that their value for most practical purposes is unreliable. In the tables in this publication, only estimates with RSEs of 25% or less are considered reliable for most purposes. Estimates with RSEs greater than 25% but less than or equal to 50% are preceded by an asterisk (e.g.\*3.4) to indicate they are subject to high SEs and should be used with caution. Estimates with RSEs of greater than 50%, preceded by a double asterisk (e.g.\*\*0.3), are considered too unreliable for general use and should only be used to aggregate with other estimates to provide derived estimates with RSEs of 25% or less.

## PROPORTIONS AND PERCENTAGES

**6** Proportions and percentages formed from the ratio of two estimates are also subject to sampling errors. The size of the error depends on the accuracy of both the numerator and the denominator. A formula to approximate the RSE of a proportion is given below. This formula is only valid when x is a subset of y.

$$RSE\left(\frac{x}{y}\right) = \sqrt{[RSE(x)]^2 - [RSE(y)]^2}$$

**7** Considering the example above, of the 1,362,600 who were migrants, 625,300 or 46% were males. The SE of 625,300 may be calculated by interpolation as 10,000. To convert this to an RSE we express the SE as a percentage of the estimate, or  $10,000/625,300 = 1.6\%$ . The SE for 1,362,600 was calculated previously as 13,600, which converted to an RSE is  $13,600/1,362,600 = 1.0\%$ . Applying the above formula, the RSE of the proportion is

$$RSE = \sqrt{(1.6)^2 - (1.0)^2} = 1.2\%$$

**8** Therefore, the SE for the proportion of male migrants is 0.6 percentage points ( $= (46/100) \times 1.2$ ). Therefore, there are about two chances in three that the proportion of male migrants is between 45.4% and 46.6% and 19 chances in 20 that the proportion is within the range 44.8% to 47.2%.

## DIFFERENCES

**9** Published estimates may also be used to calculate the difference between two survey estimates (of numbers or percentages). Such an estimate is subject to sampling error. The sampling error of the difference between two estimates depends on their SEs and the relationship (correlation) between them. An approximate SE of the difference between two estimates ( $x-y$ ) may be calculated by the following formula:

$$SE(x-y) = \sqrt{[SE(x)]^2 + [SE(y)]^2}$$

**10** While this formula will only be exact for differences between separate and uncorrelated characteristics or subpopulations, it is expected to provide a good approximation for all differences likely to be of interest in this publication.

## STANDARD ERRORS

### T1 STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES

<b>Size of estimate (persons)</b>	<b>AUST.</b>									
	<b>NSW</b> no.	<b>Vic.</b> no.	<b>Qld</b> no.	<b>SA</b> no.	<b>WA</b> no.	<b>Tas.</b> no.	<b>NT</b> no.	<b>ACT</b> no.	<b>SE</b> no.	<b>RSE</b> %
100	100	110	190	170	160	110	100	140	80	80.0
200	170	180	270	220	230	150	140	170	140	70.0
300	230	240	330	270	280	180	160	190	200	66.7
500	340	340	420	330	350	220	200	230	290	58.0
700	430	420	490	380	410	250	230	250	370	52.9
1,000	550	530	580	440	480	290	270	280	470	47.0
1,500	720	670	690	520	570	340	310	330	610	40.7
2,000	860	790	790	590	650	380	350	360	730	36.5
2,500	1,000	900	850	650	700	400	400	400	850	34.0
3,000	1,100	1,000	950	700	750	450	400	400	950	31.7
3,500	1,200	1,050	1,000	750	800	500	450	450	1,050	30.0
4,000	1,300	1,150	1,100	800	850	500	450	450	1,100	27.5
5,000	1,450	1,250	1,200	850	950	550	500	500	1,250	25.0
7,000	1,700	1,500	1,400	1,000	1,100	650	550	600	1,550	22.1
10,000	2,050	1,750	1,600	1,150	1,250	700	650	650	1,850	18.5
15,000	2,450	2,100	1,900	1,350	1,500	850	750	800	2,250	15.0
20,000	2,800	2,350	2,200	1,500	1,650	950	850	900	2,600	13.0
30,000	3,300	2,750	2,600	1,800	1,950	1,100	1,000	1,050	3,150	10.5
40,000	3,650	3,100	2,900	2,000	2,200	1,250	1,100	1,150	3,550	8.9
50,000	3,950	3,300	3,200	2,200	2,350	1,350	1,150	1,300	3,900	7.8
100,000	4,950	4,200	4,250	2,900	3,050	1,750	1,500	1,750	5,100	5.1
150,000	5,600	4,850	5,050	3,400	3,500	2,000	1,750	2,100	5,900	3.9
200,000	6,150	5,450	5,650	3,800	3,900	2,250	..	2,400	6,550	3.3
300,000	7,200	6,450	6,650	4,450	4,450	2,600	..	2,850	7,650	2.6
500,000	8,900	8,100	8,150	5,450	5,300	3,100	..	..	9,300	1.9
1,000,000	12,450	11,350	10,700	7,150	6,600	..	..	..	12,150	1.2

2,000,000	18,300	16,450	13,950	9,350	8,150	..	..	..	16,050	0.8
5,000,000	32,850	28,350	19,650	..	..	..	..	..	24,600	0.5
10,000,000	54,050	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	43,150	0.4
15,000,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	66,850	0.4
20,000,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	95,800	0.5

.. not applicable

## T2 LEVELS AT WHICH ESTIMATES HAVE RELATIVE STANDARD ERRORS OF 25% AND 50%(a)

	NSW no.	Vic. no.	Qld no.	SA no.	WA no.	Tas. no.	NT no.	ACT no.	Aust. no.
RSE of 25%	6,800	5,200	4,600	2,600	3,200	1,300	1,100	1,200	5,100
RSE of 50%	1,300	1,100	1,300	800	900	400	400	400	800

(a) Refers to the number of people contributing to the estimate.

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